

The Point

Issue 2

Fitchburg State College

Week of February 17, 1999

Read the latest
Urban Legend
pg4

Personal Ads
and Horoscopes
pg 5

The Opinion
Pole is back!
pg6

Do Children
Need
Competition?
pg7

Gotta Love
Reggie!
pg12

Programs Committee Strikes Again!

By AnneMarie Donahue

The Programs Committee has done it again with another great event for students to enjoy! This week it was the "Novelty Extravaganza" that gave students a break from their daily grind of classes and work.

The M&M lounge, home to the Classics Lunches, housed this event at which students were treated to free Tarot card readings and tempo-



rary tattoos. At other tables students were able to make sand art in bottles, both sand and bottles provided by FSC. These programs came up just in time for St. Valentine's Day when many people are looking to

The Programs Committee has done a terrific job getting events going for students who want to participate and they have a lot more coming up!

win favor with both their partner and their wallet with the perfect inexpensive gift! What says "I love you" better than a rub on tatoo? However for those of us who are love lorn this season there was a tarot reader present to tell us what next St. Valentine's Day should look like.



What says, "I love you" better than a rub on temporary tatoo?

The Programs Committee has done a terrific job getting events going for students who want to participate and they have a lot more coming up!

The New England Writer's Series returns with speakers Robert Cormier and Jennifer Sarja who will

Continued, pg 2

Members of NSA, donate blood!

By Jen Brenner

A recent amendment to the Five Star System offered student organizations the opportunity to earn stars by donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive. Many organizations took advantage of the opportunity. Members of the dance club, Masspirg, Falcon Players, LASO, The Point and many other organizations donated blood Jan. 27 - 28 as part of this program.

The Nursing Student Association is the organization that donated the most blood during this event. They were responsible for the collection of ten pints of blood. Each pint of blood can be used to help several sick or injured people in area hospitals.

In addition, the NSA sponsored this Blood Drive. They provided volunteers to register individuals who donated blood by providing them with snacks and drinks after

Members of the dance club, Masspirg, Falcon Players, LASO, The Point and many other organizations donated blood Jan. 27 - 28 as part of this program.

their donation was complete.

NSA is organizing a variety of community service projects and other events for their members this semester. They are planning to teach a child safety class for the students at McKay. They are also looking forward to assisting with the Special Olympics and the Walk for Cancer in April. In addition, NSA is planning regular bake sales and other fundraisers.



Students feed the homeless

By Presley Reece

Outside the weather was cold, but inside the Hammond Student Center, the hearts were warm. On Thurs., Jan. 28, MASSPIRG kicked off the semester with the Peanut Butter and Jelly Benefit for the homeless. The PBJ Benefit was the first in a series of projects MASSPIRG has planned for the semester.

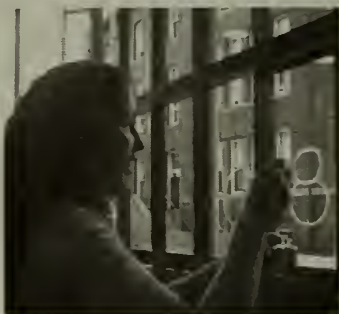
MASSPIRG, the campus environmental, hunger, and homeless advocacy group, kicked off the semester by organizing a benefit for the Fitchburg homeless. Students made over 250 sandwiches, beating the goal of 200 PBJs.. "Over 80 students stopped by the PBJ table, which ran from 11:30 a.m., to 2:30 p.m., to help make a sandwich and help the homeless," said Emily Ashburn, a freshman at FSC and

Continued, pg 2

Programs, continued from pg1

speak at Kent Recital Hall on Feb. 23 at 7:30. Robert Cormier wrote the novel, "The Bumblebee Flies Anyway" which is now a soon-to-be-released movie. Sarja, while working towards her masters degree in Dramatic Writing at NYU, wrote the screenplay to the movie, which stars Elijah Wood.

"Let's Make a Deal, 'Cuz



The Price is Right" follows on

Feb. 25. Sponsored by Campus Living this game show type program allows students to act on stage for prizes like TV/VCRS and much more. This show is always a big hit, because what's more fun than watching you friends look foolish on stage?

A veiwing of the movie, The Long Walk Home, is scheduled for Feb. 26, at 3pm in the Ellis White Lecture Hall. This movie is sponsored as a Leadership Film and is featured at the college as part of Black History Month.

March bring Women's History Month and with it comes many speakers. Beginning with a "Women's History Month Tea" in Miller

Oval on Mar. 10, this month promises to be eventful and educational. Susan Erony, a local artist who has had several showings in private museums, will make available her work for display in the Gallery above the M&M Lounge on Mar. 10. Helen Vendler will speak in Kent on Mar. 11 at 7:30.

The Board of Higher Education will meet in the G-Rooms of the Hammond Building on Mar. 19, during Spring Break and will discuss, amongst other things education reform and teacher's education in Massachusetts. All students concerned about their majors are urged to attend and voice their opinions and concerns to BHE.

Homeless, continued from pg 1

organizer of the benefit. After the 250 sandwiches were made, they were then transported to Our Father's House on Lunenburg Street. Our Father's House provides temporary housing and food to homeless families in Fitchburg. "It's great to see students helping the community like this. It really makes a difference," said Joe, a staff supervisor at Our Father's House. The benefit was co-sponsored by Chartwells, Shaw's, Stop and Shop, and Nissan Bakery.

In addition to the PBJ Benefit, MASSPIRG is working on several environmental, hunger, and homelessness projects this semester. The Save the Arctic Wildlife Refuge campaign is taking on four notorious oil companies who

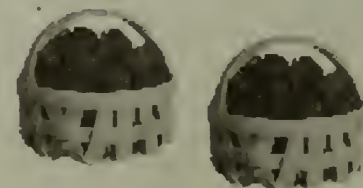
want to drill for oil in an unspoiled part of the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge. This campaign is also working with other PIRGs in other states and several national environmental groups, including Sierra Club and the Audobon society. Plus, students can soon expect to see recycling on campus. MASSPIRG, along with cam-

MASSPIRG, the campus environmental, hunger, and homeless advocacy group, kicked off the semester by organizing a benefit for the Fitchburg homeless.

pus officials, are in the final stages of starting a recycling program for the residence halls. MASSPIRG has a new environmental education project. Its goal is to teach students at McKay School about the environment and the need to protect it. MASSPIRG's Hunger Project is continuing its weekly visits to homeless shel-

ters and is planning a Hunger Clean-up for April 10.

Students interested in getting involved, or helping make a difference in their world or community can contact MASSPIRG at ex. 4710, or e-mail at



I followed, I drank, I got drunk!

By Marktavian Martin, a.k.a. Brother Tavian

The event: "Following the Drinking Gourd." The place: Fitchburg State College in the Ellis White Lecture Hall. The time: 1:30 p.m, Feb. 11, and if you don't know by now, you already missed it. Let me rub it in a little.

Ronnie McFarland, with her positive attitude, charisma, and feminine touch did true justice to Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman." Ms. McFarland brought the crowd to their feet with applause after her emotional reading. She was a tough act to follow.

However, Manny Lewis exerted confidence over the crowd with his strong eye contact. When Mr. Lewis performed the poem "Women Black: We Begin With You," written by Haki Madhubuti, his powerful voice shook the room like thunder. Lewis made you feel every word and respect the message he brought to the table. Ethan Brown with a peaceful aura, brought a calm reflective mood to the audience with his reading of "Black Star Line" by Henry Dumas. The poets were outstanding and the mood was inspiring. To all the people who threw away their black history calendar of events, don't—playa hate, participate!

Don't playa-hate, participte!

What would a black history month event be without song? With spirit and harmonious melody, Ms. Aiesha Goodman welcomed the crowd with the Black National Anthem. Then, bringing us back to church, Ms. Thania Lemier sang a beautiful spiritual. "Lift every voice and sing," but not if you make my ears ring.

All of this would not have been possible without the planning, and hard work of Black History Month committee, Dr. Chola Chisunka of the English department, and Jamie Cochran and Alvin Riley of the Access Office. Other fantastic poets on the roster included our own Adonna Agbo, Danielle Delgado, Alyssa Charles, the emcee Michelle Phipps, Gene, Erlinda Bowden, Wilson, Tahir Core—and anyone else I missed, I'll get you next time baby!!

**I am an amazing woman.
Maya Angelou**



SUMMER JOBS



FEMALE AND MALE COUNSELORS NEEDED FOR TOP CHILDREN'S CAMP IN MAINE. TOP SALARY, ROOM/BOARD/LAUNDRY, CLOTHING & TRAVEL ALLOWANCE INCLUDED.

MUST HAVE SKILL IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, ARTS & CRAFTS (CERAMICS, STAINED GLASS, JEWELRY), ATHLETIC TRAINER, BASKETBALL, CANOEING, KAYAKING, DANCE (TAP, POINTE, & JAZZ), DRAMA, FIELD HOCKEY, GOLF, GYMNASTICS (INSTRUCTORS & QUALIFIED SPOTTERS), HORSEBACK RIDING/ENGLISH HUNT SEAT, LACROSSE, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHER, PIANO ACCOMPANIST, PIONEERING/CAMP CRAFT, ROPES (CHALLENGE COURSE, 25 STATIONS), SAILING, SOCCER, SOFTBALL, TENNIS, THEATER TECHNICIANS, TRACK & FIELD, VOLLEYBALL, WATERSKIING (SLALOM, TRICK, BAREFOOT, JUMPING) W.S.I./SWIM INSTRUCTORS, WINDSURFING. ALSO OPPORTUNITIES FOR KITCHEN, COOKS, MAINTENANCE, NURSES AND SECRETARIES.

CAMP VEGA FOR GIRLS! VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT

www.campvega.com or e-mail us at jobs@campvega.com

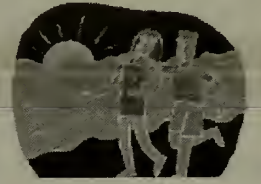
CALL 1-800-838-VEGA

COME SEE US! We will be on your campus Tue. February 23rd

STUDENT UNION, ROOM G06

INTERVIEWS AND INFORMATION FROM 10AM - 4PM.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



#1 Spring Break '99 Vacations!

Best Prices Guaranteed!!!

Cancun & Jamaica \$399, Bahamas \$459,

Panama City Beach \$129. Book now

& receive a free "Spring Break

Uncensored" video!!! 1-800-234-7007

www.endlesssummertours.com

#1 Florida Spring Breaks!

Free Parties with No Cover.

Best Beachfront Hotels.

Panama City, Ft. Lauderdale,

& Key West from \$129. Book Now!

Free "Spring Break Uncensored"

video! 1-800-234-7007

www.endlesssummertours.com

FREE RADIO

+ \$1250!

Fundraiser open to student groups & organizations. Earn \$3-\$5 per Visa/MC app. We supply all materials at no cost. Call for info or visit our website. Qualified callers receive a FREE

Baby Boom Box.

1-800-932-0528 x 65.

www.ocmconcepts.com

This story is a big fat lie!!!

by AnneMarie "Object of a Stalker's Desire" Donahue

Aubuchon, the residence hall that makes a difference, has become the center of a controversy more bizarre than the 1980s success of the Reagan/Bush administration. False alarms, which shouldn't seem all that bizarre, have become the tool in the latest rush in Satanic Cult Rituals that are currently taking the nation by storm. In order to get to the bottom of this story (and keep the ratings up while we're in spring session) The Point, FSC's own college newspaper, has sent me, AnneMarie Donahue into the battle zone to find out what's the dilly, yo.

It was 11:30 p.m. on Friday that I was able to spring into action. The alarm went off and the mayhem that was caused by about 200 semi-conscious bodies tumbling down the stairs, covered by covert motions as I moved up the ranks to the abandoned rooms on the eleventh floor. These rooms remained unoccupied and, according to local legend, were uninhabitable for supernatural reasons. I was stealthily walking down the girls' side of the eleventh floor when I heard the "Matt Scott" patrol coming up from behind me. Moving quickly, I hid in the john. After they had left, I crept out from my hiding place, and that's when I heard a low mumbling coming from a room at an end of the hall. As I crept towards the door, the mumbling became louder, more distinct, and, although I couldn't comprehend what they were saying, I was able to recognize that it was Sanskrit. (Note to reader: Comm/Media students are highly encouraged to take classes in hundred-year-old dead lan-

Is Aubuchon really a home for Satanists to contact their evil under lord?



Patrick Swayse, hunky movie star who stole our hearts in Dirty Dancing, or an evil alien from outerspace cruising around FSC looking for victims? You decide!

guages, it helps!) Growing brave, I crept up to the door and as soon as I put my ear to the door, the chanting stopped. I held my breath for a moment when the door was abruptly opened, and I fell into the middle of what I can only describe as a cross between a satanic ritual sacrifice and a Dudgeons and Dragons convention.

"You have entered the realm of Sephiroth's Eternal Hellfire," A tall, thin, zit-filled kid in a long black robe that had, in my opinion, played Final Fantasy too many times, asked. "Are you the pizza delivery guy?"

"No, I'm AnneMarie Donahue, with The Point." His blank stare and gaped mouth gave me the feeling that he wasn't sure what I meant. "You know, The Point, FSC's school newspaper?" Evidently, we have a lot of advertising to do!

"Oh, I wasn't sure. Come in and join us." He stepped out of my way and I saw a half a dozen more people dressed like Marilyn Manson and Alex from Clockwork Orange.

"I'd like to ask you a few questions, if that would be all right. I want to share your story with the students of FSC," I asked, getting out my tape recorder and camera.

Evidently, that idea pleased them and I, unfortunately, found out the hard way that these particular Satanists were chatty. They are the source of most of

the false pulls, but not for the witty reason that others pull the alarms. No, our Satanists pull the alarms for a much more devious reason. They are planning to create a hell on earth and the gateway to this land of the eternally damned just happened to be in Aubuchon. Isn't that always the case though?

"I was informed in a dream that was brought on by a recent alien abduction, that I was to be the first-hand man of our lord, Satan," stated a member who preferred to go by his webname Link314. "After he conquers this land that you and your kind live in, he will rise to eternal power by defeating your weak god and all he represents."

"Uh huh. How long ago was this alien abduction?"

"Last week, I was walking back to Aubuchon from Guam, and I had just gotten to the top of the hill, when an alien dressed like Patrick Swayze rode up in a 1950s sky blue Cadillac, and asked me directions to a gas station. I

got in, he gave me fifty dollars, and that's when I blacked out. After a while, I woke up in a room of the Hotel Six, I had obviously had a full-cavity search (and they went deep), and I think they needed to know more about our culture, because my wallet was missing."

"I think I have plenty for my report, I should really be going now," I said, trying to make my escape quickly.

"Wait, don't you want to hear about my abduction?" another one asked.

"NO!" I yelled, "not right now, maybe later. I've really got to go right now though." I walked quickly out the door and ran down the hall, away from my strange witnesses.

That was the last I heard of the cult, as far as I know they may right now be aboard an alien space ship being anally probed and wondering who would win in a fight: Locutus or Darth Vader? ☹



The Point

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AnneMarie Donahue

MANAGING EDITOR

Joel Hurley

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Doug Cahill

ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER

Yuriko Seki

NEWS EDITOR

AnneMarie Donahue

FEATURES EDITORS

Vacant

OPINION EDITOR

Sam Ciaramitaro

A&E EDITOR

Robin E. Sandberg

SPORTS EDITOR

Rhalda Jansen

COPY EDITOR

Rondi E. Bloom

BUSINESS MANAGER

Lorne Winkfield

ADVERTISING MANAGER

AnneMarie Donahue

WEB MANAGER

Drew

STAFF WRITERS

Adanna Agbo

Guy Marochino

Stephen Beck

Michael McGonigle

Niovel Hidalgo

Marktavian Martin

FACULTY ADVISER

Doris Schmidt

The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Point article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

The Point is the student news source of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to the Point becomes the property of the Point.



Personals

Features

Horoscopes

as foretold by Cassandra



Horoscopes for the week of Feb. 21 thru Feb. 27

The Vitashere for the Week of Feb. 21 - 27:

Mercury is in Pisces/Venus begins in Pisces then enters Aries on Feb. 22/Mars is in Scorpio/Jupiter is in Aries/Saturn is in Aries/Uranus is in quarius/Neptune is in Aquarius/Pluto is in Sagittatrius.

#1 Single White Female, looking for single male. I'm looking for a nice guy who I can annoy during my off hours who shares my interest in horror films and ghost stories. I'd take Armageddon over Titanic, Star Trek over Star Wars, Shemp over Curly, Tim Burton over Orson Welles, WWF over WCW/NWO, Halloween over Christmas and Friday the 13th over Nightmare on Elm Street. Long walks on the beach bore me and hot sand burns my feet, sunsets hurt my eyes and you shouldn't look directly at the sun anyway. My idea of romance is snuggling on the couch and watching a scary movie, or Unsolved Mysteries. I'm nice, smart, a good technician, and a fair editor. If interested contact @ Point x3647.



#4 Single White Female, looking for Nerdy White Guy. 5'6', medium build, brown eyes, red hair. I love dancing and teaching ballet and hip-hop. I love poetry and would love to get some from a guy with big buck teeth. If interested please contact The Point @ 3647.

#3 Single Ethic Female, looking for Single Male. Neurotic biology student, 5". I enjoy many styles and types of music and movies. I even like country music. If interested please contact The Point @ 3647.

#5 Single White Male looking for Single Female. 5'7', trim build, brown hair, blue eyes. I am a computer science major who's interests include horror and comedy movies. I listen to pop music, but I like other kinds. If interested please contact The Point @ 3647.

#2 Single White Female looking for Single Tall Male. 5'6', medium build. I enjoy horror, comedy and romance movies. I like rap, R&B, pop and some rock. My interest include walking on the beach, fast cars and cuddling. If interested please contact The Point @ 3647

them to fight for what they want with dignity and courage, and we teach them to wait for it with perseverance, our world might be different. So, it is our responsibility to teach them, and to teach them well. To teach them to respect their beliefs and themselves, but also to respect one another.

I know that right now it seems so difficult to go on and finish what we started; that we are overwhelmed and frustrated by all the work we have to do; that we think that we can't make it, and that it's just too much. But I know we can do it. I know we have the capacity and the patience to hang in there and finish it, as well as all the things that we are going through right now. Just think of the little faces that say "Hi, Miss... or Mr..." every morning and that might give us a little bit of reward and happiness in these difficult times. I feel like all of you, and I keep reminding myself that there is peace and a calm at the end of the storm.

Student Teaching at FSC

by Niovel Nadira Hidalgo

When I began to study education in 1996, I was aware of the responsibilities that faced me as a teacher. But what I am experiencing now during my student teaching goes beyond all that I knew I had to deal with as a teacher.

Every morning, as I walk to my first graders' classroom, I know that I will learn something new from them. To see them learn and discover new things through language arts, math, or Academic Choice Time, is something that can't be compared to anything.

From the one who does community service and helps those who can't read well, to the one who spends a whole week trying to put together a puzzle, all have one thing in common: to learn.

The people who have the future in their hands are those children. They will decide which direction a nation will take. But all of these things depend on one thing: what we teach them. If the future is in their hands, what that future will be is in ours. If we teach

You will be one of the two signs, not directly effected by astrological set-up that ill plaguin the rest of humanity. Both Uranus and Neptune will be in your sign making all the crazy people suffering from the planet alignment seek you out for a sympathetic ear. Although you may not mind at first, don't let this overwhelm you! Being everybody's best friend and trusted confidant can be tiring!

Aquarius For the easy-going Pisces this will be great week to start a relationship, or if you're already in one, take charge and bring it to a new level. This is a strong alignment for the pleasant Pisces, with Mercury and Venus both Pisces there is a good combination of power and love ready to be taken advantage of. Go up to that guy or girl who's been giving you the eye and ask him/her out!

Pisces With Mars in Scorpio this week could be the best or the worst week of you life! But both Jupiter and Saturn, two power planets have drifted into your sign, making for a power struggle with those you love. Venus enters Aries soon after on the 22nd so you can be sure it will be a week full of head-games with those you love. My personal advice, hide under the bed!

Aries Your ruling planet, Venus, is in Aries this week, making your natural possessive tendency a little more assertive. Try not to be pushy about forcing your partner to "prove" their affection, instead realize that all people show their love in their own way.

Taurus Mercury is in Pisces, which will make you very picky about what you like and don't like. If you want to like something then you will, and conversley if you want to hate something you will. Be careful not to let this influence your judgement, because you may have the tendency to allow your personal tastes to effect your rationality.

Gemini Your planet is ruled by the moon, which is currently waning (getting smaller) so you may feel tired and lagged out. But don't let this get you down, while none of the planets are in your sign, several are in corresponding signs which could make for an exciting week.

Cancer Ruled by the sun, which is currently in Pisces, this week should be fairly uneventful for Leo. This may be a good week to relate to others because your level of intensity (usually high) will be considerably lower. This is not a week for the "movers and shakers" rather than the "touch-basers."

Leo This is another planet ruled by Mercury, however Virgos tend to define their lives thru what they do, not how they interact with people like the Aries. So this week could be all right! You can be very rational and this week will need that as both Mercury and Venus are in Pisces. With the planets for power and love coexisting this week can be a great chace for taking charge of a relationship!

Virgo This sign is in an awkward position. You may be the object of some unwanted affection, or you may be giving someone unwanted affection. Either way to play it safe just be honest with yourself and tat other person! Try to put yourself in their shoes which is a position you are used to imagining, and try to react in a natural honest way.

Libra Pluto, your ruling planet is in Sagittarius and with Mars in your sign this could friction. For a lot of people Sagittarius in Mars means "get work done," but for yo it tends to mean that you will experience the "angry young man" syndrome. You will be easily upset, easily offended and gripe a lot about politics! Try not to bores us all with your theories on the poor abused proliteriat.

Scorpio You may feel very self-righteous lately because people are insinuating (or outright saying) that you are superficial. Try not to tear their fheads off, the truth is that you can sometimes be superficial. Your ruling planet, Pluto, is in Sagittarius and all the signs are feeling the affects, but you will feel it the most. You are going to experience a wave of "super-ego," meaning you will have to do right by everyone. Just understand that others may not want to go along with this and you may be the odd man out. Just stick to you guns and everything will work itself out.

Sagittarius Saturn, your ruling planet is in Aries, which can make you touchy and grouchy this week. You tend to class snob of the vitasphere, believing that you should be with others who think and act like you. Try not to get into any fights where you can be misunderstood, which is something that you suffer from.

Reverend Jerry Farwell says:

Tinkie-Winkie is GAY!

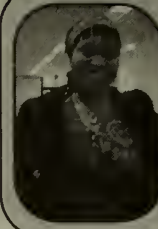
What do you think?



It's a kids show, leave it be. - Tara Petruzzi



Some adults over-analyze television shows...It's anal.
- Brian Wyatt



How could he say such a thing, is he crazy? - Adanna Agbo



The What?!?!?
-Drew LeBlanc



Every time I see that show, I want to shoot myself in the head.
- Jonathon Verda



I begin to think that HE'S gay - gay in the head. He's a nut. Can we get a contract out on him? - Margaret from the bookstore



That's the lamest thing I've ever heard in my life. - Ryan Gill



I think it's stupid that he would look into the show putting sexual connotations in a show for toddlers.
-Kelly Williamson



It's a personal choice for the Teletubby. - Greg Mastin

A leader speaks softly

by Guy Marochino

There are plenty of gay activists who are true leaders. They make changes and know how to actually work their stuff. Then, there are those who try pathetically to emulate these statements made by the leaders, but never really listen to the message, just the emotion behind it. They tend to force acceptance down everyone's throat by being pushy, bossy and impatient, which only serves to reenforce the stereotype. This causes the message to be lost and hurts the chance for a gay person to become a normal member of society.

Being on this campus for a semester now, I have not dealt with any personal or sexual harassment. I applaud the acceptance that I feel in this area and in this school. I came from the South Shore, where gays and lesbians almost appear to outnumber the heteros (or

"breeders," if you wish) of the area. This is one of the reasons why it was so easy to say something that may be taboo to anyone around me. Believe it or not, there is a world outside of FSC and it contains tolerance! It nearly sickens me when I hear how bad those had it when they came out of the closet around here. . . puh-lease! Do you want to know what it's like to really be an outcast? Then go to the midwest, and see the nonsense they have to deal with!

It is not my place in this world to push my views and my lifestyle just because I am different than the others. That would be insisting that a friend of mine become active in the African-American club at his school only because he is black! It does not work that way. I think if we just live out our lives around us as normally as we can, then those who are intolerant to differ-

ent lifestyles will simply have to learn how to deal with it. That was how many have learned to deal with me (well, that is still a work in process).

Figures of speech and slang are another issue. If I say, "oh that looks so welfare!" or "my, you are so ghetto," many could take offense, when no offense was intended. Often the groups offended by these slang terms are not the ones we think. Middle-American suburbanites are usually the first to gasp at a term that someone who lives in a ghetto may not even bat an eyelash at. People are trained to feel supersensitive to others at all times. Many people forget what it is to have a sense of humor, or how to use it, and they get offended by something that is only meant as a joke and not the actual connotation. That's why I don't flip out when someone says, "oh, that is so gay." I know to laugh, and people who

know me realize that I won't flip out. However, if someone who doesn't know me finds out I'm gay, they jump into their politically-correct mode and begin to modify all their thought, statements and actions (as if I'm a government agency looking to crack down on gay jokes on college campuses).

I do understand that not everyone is as laid back as I am, but maybe that's the problem. We need to know how to just live and just be. This is not another issue of how to deal with those who are sexually oriented differently than you are, it is just a mere example. This is to point out how everyday life does not have to be one long-winded political standpoint after another. I am a leader with a soft voice that will make a stand on my own soap-box, and I know how not to smear it in other people's faces.

Children need competition and evaluation

by Sam Ciaramitaro

In a recent conversation, an interesting topic about a new psychological theory was addressed. Elementary schools have begun, in recent years, to cease grading or evaluating students. The argument is, that at an early stage, it might be detrimental to a child's self-esteem. The child, being impressionable, will see himself at a lower performance level, and possibly begin to doubt his own self-worth. By giving everyone the same grade on an assignment, or distributing the same amount of praise to sports players, the competition aspect will be diminished, maybe annihilated. This will make the kids feel good about themselves.

First of all, I can't imagine even one rational person thinking that this policy is even in any way one to consider. So how could there ever be a whole PTA and school board that could make the decision to implement something with such a dangerous potential? I don't want to say it, but it seems that in some school districts, there are almost no rational people.

Let's look at this rationally. Destroying competition between children will take away their desire to per-

form. To be mediocre will feel the same as being excellent. Kids who are potentially good at basketball for example, may never find out their talents. Who wants America's spoiled millionaire athletes to be mediocre? I don't. I suppose people who agree with this ridiculous notion will say that the sports world is all about competition and out-



Children should learn to love challenge. This country, the greatest in the world, was founded on such principles.

doing one another already, making the example invalid. But there are more serious consequences.

Giving impressionable students all the same grade, no matter how they do, will not diminish the inferiority that the ones with poor grades feel. It will do

the opposite. This grave and cruel act will destroy the student's motivation toward success. The minor successes he could have experience will be gone, and he will not see where his abilities and talents stand out, and therefore not stress those pieces of himself. If my writing had not been praised increasingly as I grew into maturity, I might never have seen the talent, or realized the immense enjoyment I get out of it. Without being shown in grades that someone is good at math, the child may ignore the subject, and never develop the talent to become the high-paid computer technician. Without knowing that she is doing a great job dissecting a pig, a child may never have the ambition to be the successful veterinarian she can be. Where would Beethoven be if he was not encouraged by his music teacher?

Everyone has at least one thing at which he or she can excel. Although some people never realize what their thing is, by taking away competition and evaluation at a young age, their ability to discern their "hot spots" will be stifled even more. Once everyone is working at their best talent, we will have a successful society. In telling students that they are equally as good at

everything as their peers are, you are telling a child that he/she should not strive for excellence. There is no glory in winning. Therefore, why do it? Telling a child he/she is no better than anyone else diminishes the ambitions, goals, and dreams.

Children should be brought up to strive for excellence. Nothing is wrong with friendly competition. In this country especially, where we are able to accomplish almost anything as far as opportunities allow, we should encourage children to be the best they can be in every way. That may seem like a slightly banal statement, but it is how things should be. Children should learn to love challenge.

This country, the greatest in the world, was founded on such principles. Capitalism and our free-market are only possible with competition and evaluation. The second we start doing stuff like making mediocre doctors the majority, we have introduced communism. Only a communist-socialist would even come up with something like that. It has been proven over and over that communism will never work. People with a talent are special, and should be treated like they are special and be encouraged.

Kudos to Riccards for even trying!

By AnneMarie Donahue

Last semester was my first time ever writing for a newspaper, and this has been a wonderful opportunity for me. I have been able to sit in on meetings concerning policy changes here at Fitchburg State College, which I may not have been aware existed. I was able to better grasp exactly what is going on with the proposals, both the presidential and other forms, by writing about them weekly. I got to know both administrators and teachers as people concerned with their students and the productivity of this school, and I got to state my opinion weekly in The Point and I got very famous for it. (At least more so than if I hadn't been writing for this paper!)

However, there is one aspect of this

job on The Point that I don't enjoy; putting up with "nay-sayers." These are the folks who like to whine and gripe about how terrible things have gotten at their college and say that this school produces poor students and horrible teachers, but aren't willing to lift a finger to help change it. It's easy to complain about a problem, but it takes true courage to try to make a change, especially when you know that the change will be met with sarcasm, indifference, and outright rage in some cases.

Those were the evils facing Dr. Riccards, President of FSC, on the evening of Sept. 21, when he spoke with students to address their concerns and fears about the proposals for education reform that he presented to the All College Council. Upon entering the

meeting, I was completely uninformed on the proposals and their effects on students, so I sat and listened while Dr. Riccards explained his proposals and reasonings for them. I also listened to the students who expressed their concerns and apprehension about the new proposals, and from this I was able to form my own opinion.

It's easy to complain about a problem, but it takes true courage to try to make a change.

I still don't like 'em. But, I now understand that President Riccards is

trying to do something good for this school. He isn't trying to destroy this college by making standards so high that only a group of elite atomic supermen can become teachers. He's trying to make it possible that we don't fall behind. He's trying to ensure that when you get up to take that Mass State Teacher's Exam, you can pass it!

President Riccards is being proactive and trying to fix what has gone wrong with not only this school, but education in this state in general, specifically teacher education. So, President Riccards, although I may not agree with what you are doing, I do have to give you credit for doing something! In the words of my sports writers, I'd like to give "mad props" to President Riccards.

FSC experiences "Deja Vu"

by Presley Reese

Fitchburg State College's International Film Series continues on Feb. 17 with a screening of "Deja Vu" at 7 p.m. in the Hammond Building's Ellis White Lecture Hall. A short film by students in the film department will also be presented.

The subject of "Deja Vu," directed by Henry Jaglom, is love and destiny. Dana (Victoria Foyt), a young American woman traveling on business in Jerusalem, meets a mysterious older French woman at a café (Aviva Marks)

who shares a fascinating story of love loss, revolving around the expensive antique ruby pin she's wearing. The woman exits the café abruptly, leaving the pin behind. Dana, who is on her way to meet her fiancé (Michael Brandon) for a pre-honeymoon week in London, finds herself forced to reschedule her trip through Paris in an unsettling attempt to return the jewel. Thus begins a journey that leads Dana first to England's coastal town of Dover—where she finds herself strongly drawn to an inexplicably familiar stranger named Sean (Stephen

Dillane)—and later to a country home in London. There, she encounters the extraordinary Skelly (Venessa Redgrave), a woman showing passionate belief in "jumping off the cliff" of life, and who has a profound effect upon Dana.

"Deja Vu" is a film about "the powerful pull that strangers can feel toward one another, how one's orderly life-plans can be suddenly and totally disrupted by mysterious feelings of connection and belonging that seem to defy all logic and circumstance."

Filmed on location in Israel, France

and England, *Deja Vu* has an exceptional cast, which, in addition to Foyt, Dillane, Brandon, Marks and Redgrave includes Gylnis Barber, Vernon Dobtcheff, Graydon Gould, Noel Harrison, Rachel Kempson and Anna Massey.

Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information call 978-665-3709. FSC's International Film Series continues on March 31 with a screening of "Song of the Exile." ☞

Five O'Clock Shadow

by Anthony Falvey

Five O'Clock Shadow, a six man a cappella group hailing from Boston, has been on the music scene since 1991. Through their musical journey, they have established two major concepts to knowing who they are: they love to make noise, and instruments are too heavy!

The band has recently released a CD, "So There," which includes ten songs mostly written by these five o'clockers. The album features a cover of Tonic's

"If You Could Only See" done in their signature style. The CD's other notable tracks include "Mine Tonight," "What's It All About," "Far Away," and "Get Down Tonight/That's the Way." "Mine Tonight," is a flowing love song that we guys wouldn't mind singing to our sweethearts. "What's It All About," seems to explore the notion of why we are here.

"Far Away," is an appealing song to listen to. I think they use a telephone in the song, but it could be their creative voices. The song has a real nice bass

quality to it. Finally, "Get Down Tonight/That's the Way," will leave a listener amazed; the song sounds as if the group is actually singing with a band!

Five O'Clock Shadow's style and performance can be described as exceptionally creative. The band's songs are carried through with genuine professionalism. So there!! Oh yeah, Five O'Clock's "So There," is quite a musical experience. ☞

Varsity Blues

by Robin E. Sandberg

3 1/2 out of 5 stars

"More than just some good looking football players trying to win a game."



Films these days are known for their clichés, especially in football, but *Varsity Blues* surprisingly had some substance. It stars the teenage heart-throb James Van der Beek (Dawson's Creek) as Mox who is nearing the end of a perfect football season and the pressure is on. This continuous drive to win is from their overbearing coach played by Jon Voight who is willing to sacrifice his players health to win the game.

This movie takes place in Texas where high school football is more than just a sport. Everyone, including the parents, live vicariously through the game when the boys only want to simply play. This is not the usual sports movie with the obvious ending. It takes a look into the obsession towards football that they have in the south. In the end it's actually more than a bunch of football players trying get some of the control they lost. Realizing it's time to take matters into their own hands and become heroes their own way. ☞

Poetry Corner

Egg Ache

by Kim Rosado

Splash	Splash	Kick	Up
Giggle Giggle		Bump	Stop
Try to stay in the middle			OH SH*T
Shove	Kick	Push	Kick
Scream + Tickle		Gasp	Swallow
Whatever works to catch the tiddle		Push	Panic
Look	Pause		Swim
One boy more		Fast	Slam
I will be the last one left		Push	Surface
Move	Dive	Air	Cling
Flip	Ker-plop!	Pull	Fall
	WAIT!		F**k that hurt
What	Where am I		

Looking to make CASH this summer???

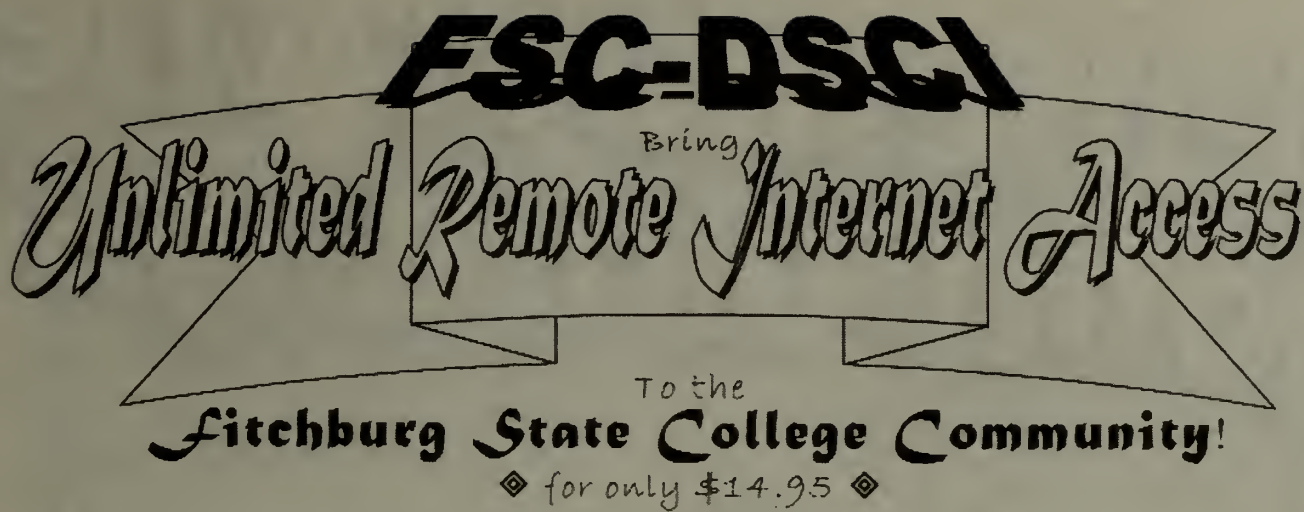
Consider renting a house on the Cape!

Typical jobs: Waiter/Waitress, Cooks, landscaping, etc.

Possible income: \$3,500 - \$6,000 easily!

All this in three months and walking distance to the most beautiful beaches you have ever seen!

For more information please contact The Point @ ext. 3647



Students, Faculty & Staff now have the ability to access the Internet by making a local phone call anywhere in MA, NH, RI while still utilizing their FSC email account. We are also making this available to Alumni and the Community for interest access utilizing one of the free email services available (i.e. hotmail, yahoo, lycos). All points of presence (POP sites) are 100% digital, each POP supports analog modem traffic up to K56flex-v.90 traffic, and ISDN to 128Kbps. We have alleviated common problems like busy signals and modem incompatibility to satisfy the Fitchburg State College community's needs.

Three programs are available: \$14.95 for unlimited monthly access; \$7.95 for 10 hours of service (\$1.00 each additional); \$29.95 for 64k ISDN unlimited access. You will be billed by DSCI directly (methods of payment - credit card, check or money order) and utilize their 24x7 help desk for assistance. For more information please contact DSCI at (800) 538-0304 or info@DSCI-net.com, on campus help desk representatives @ x4500 of helpdesk@fsc.edu, or online at http://www.fsc.edu/~mis/userservices/falconnet_helpdesk/remotearrress.htm.

~Sign up today and soar with Falcon Net~

Remember the 'good old days'?



Fitchburg State College - The Early Days

And remember when your financial institution:

- ▶ Provided friendly, personal service, with a smile.
- ▶ Talked to you, and called you by name.
- ▶ Cared about you and your finances.
- ▶ Promised you satisfaction.
- ▶ Treated you like royalty.

That's the way it still is, here
at YOUR credit union!

FITCHBURG

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

718 Main Street • Fitchburg, MA 01420
342-1827

Bring in this Ad - we'll deposit the first \$10 in your new account!

Participate in the Office of Campus Living's Program, "Let's Make a Deal, 'Cuz the Price is Right" game show and win some fabulous prizes! TV/VCR's, and lots more!

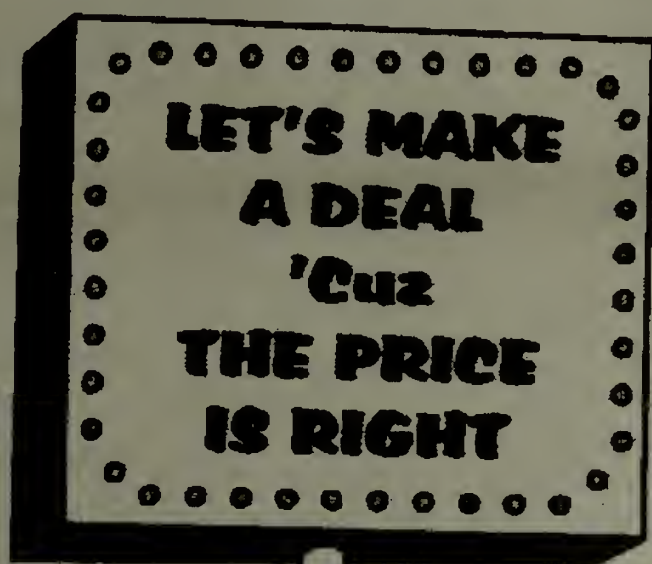
indoor track, continued from pg12

2:01, and Christine Cameron finished the 600 in 2:20, in her first (!) indoor meet ever. And yes, the cough will go away, eventually. Rhalda "two down, one to go" Jansen won her second MASCAC title by winning her 800 in 2:26, and with this became the third Falcon to win an event that day. Jackie "it's illegal to pay you to run, I'm sorry!" Savoury placed second in the dash with 7.61, and 3rd in the 200 with 27.95. I know we still owe you big time, so here's a "great, huge, big thanks" to her, for accompanying the Christies and myself in the 4x400! The rest of the 200-ladies finished exactly in a row. Don't quite know how they did it, cause they we're all in different heats..., but it looked good in the results! Captain Stephanie "get them spikes on!" Kretas lead the Falcon-pack

in 32.58, followed by Joanie "my volleyballgirl" Gillen in 32.70. Joanie also placed 6th in the hurdles with 11.00, "It's gotta be the body suit!" and the #4 Falcon in the 200 was Co-Captain Cheryl Briggs with 33.77. The women's teams placed 4th in the 4x400 relay, and 3rd in the 4x200, so great job to all who participated!

Good luck to all the men who qualified for the New England's, and have to do their thing this weekend! Friends and family, thanks for showing up, and being our bright-spot on this particularly tiring day! There will be a mandatory spring track meeting at McKay on Monday Feb. 22 at 3:30, so all who wish to participate please show up. All levels of ability are welcome!

RJ.



Thursday,
February 25th,
1999 @ 7pm
Weston
Auditorium
Admission:
Non-perishable
food item!

Gotta Love Reggie!

by The Dutch One

The men's and women's track teams had a great day competing in the Alliance meet at Reggie Lewis, this past weekend. The Alliance is a combination between our MASCAC and the Little East League, nine schools participated in this event. A few of our runners qualified, or re-qualified, three athletes won the Alliance title in their events, and both teams placed 4th overall in the Alliance competition. The men's team did awesome, seeing they were missing their #1 sprinter, and jumper: Jude, and have recently lost Keto Sysong, one of their distance runners, who is off to defend the country. The women's team, still small in numbers, but big in team-spirit, also rocked, and I'm very proud of 'm!

Anthony "my ex-girlfriend is here today" Conso (what can I say...she paid me to write that Anthony!) kicked some serious butt in the hurdles, by not only looking good, but also coming in first with 8.11. "The Conso" was followed by Mark "my babe" Teator, who came in second, with a time of 8.20. Both men qualified for the New England's, so congrats! Looking great out there! Captain Jay Bramble racked up a few points of his own, by coming in 4th in the dash with 6.86, 3rd in the 200m. in 23.57, and 4th in a collective effort in

the 4x400 with 3:47. I don't care what they say about cutting in, and where, you guys still rocked! Freshman Kevin "sorry about last week's comment!" Carlo placed 6th in the dash with 7.10, 10th in the 200m. with 24.83, and 6th in the high jump with 5'8".

Another great day for Eric "watch 'm now!" Nolan, placing 5th in the 200m. with 23.87, 3rd in his 400 with 53.01, 7th in the triple jump, and he just jammed out there in the 4x400 relay. Derek Delanski doubled up in the 1500 and 800m. He ran a 2:09 in the 800m., placing 6th, and a 4:34 in the 1500, which awarded him 5th place. Oh, and let's not forget that first jammin' lap you did in the relay! But let's forget what happened after that lap... Boudu "kickin' a## out there!" Bingay, who went around asking people if they had change for a dollar, also ran a great 800m., coming in 8th with 2:12. Don Keneally placed 6th in the 1500 with 5:09. Mark Teator didn't only rock in the hurdles, he also cleaned house with his 5th spot in the long jump, 6th spot in the triple jump, and 9th place in the 200m. Mike Seguin actually crossed the bar in vaulting, and came in 7th. WOOOHOOO! He also jumped 5'6" in the high jump. And last, but again not least, another champ: Shaun "he is really great at pole vault!" Grier, who won

the men's vaulting with a jump of 12'6", great job there babe!

Ever though the women didn't have a lot of participants, they still made 'm raise their eyebrows. Christie A. placed 5th in the 1500 with 5:18. Her sister

Christie E. took the 4th spot in the 1000m. with 3:22, nice job ladies! Kelly "you go girl!" Gorey fought her way to the 4th spot in the 600m. With

Continued, pg 11



Now available: temporary Shaun Grier tattoo.

SAAC Update

by Rhalda Jansen

The last SAAC meeting was a very productive one, all three subcommittees have events planned for the near future, and the 'Code of Conduct' seems to be coming together very well. Mark Teator has been voted into the committee to take over Keto Sysong's spot in representing men's cross country.

The 'Athletes as Fans' committee went over its last event, the student vs. Faculty/Staff half-time game, and is now planning to organize an Alumni game between the men's and women's basketball teams, and their alumni. The games will take place after the basketball season has ended, and might have a community twist to it, seeing we're trying to organize a biddy-basketball game during the half-times. The 'Community Service' committee has planned an All-

Sports Clinic for a Sunday in April. Each sport will have a fifteen minute



station, the participants will be 5th and 6th graders from area elementary schools. This should definitely be a fun event, so keep your eyes open for it!

The 'Athletes as Leaders' committee has proposed its first draft of the 'Code of Conduct', corrections will be submitted at the next meeting, so all committees have a chance to go over it, and make suggestions.

Feb. 18 will be the last home game for the men's and women's basketball teams, and also senior day, so come and support your teams for the final time, they've earned it! Good luck to the men's and women's soccer teams, who have found their new coaches, get ready for the fall, and do your thing! Last, but not least: the women's volleyball team has started its spring practices, so if you're interested in coming out for volleyball in the fall, this is a great time to get to know the team and its coach. You can reach coach Paciorek at # 4699, to get info on the 'what, when, where' of the practices.

R.J.

Hoops update

The men's and women's teams are still having a tough time in their efforts to finish the season well. The men lost from Salem State in a tough game on Feb. 9, the final score was 59-72. They had a much closer one vs. Westfield this past weekend, when the game had to be taken into over-time. The Falcons unfortunately lost by three points, and ended up with a final score of 73-76. The women don't seem to have it together just yet. They lost their last two games with 46-85 from Salem, and 52-88 from Westfield. But as was said last week "It's not all in the record!" Guys, and yes, I also mean the women by this! Pick it up, I know you can do it! Finish the season strong!